

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

JOSE CASTANEDA SENTENCED TO EIGHT YEARS IN THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 22, 2017

**CONTACT: Elaine McCleaf, Deputy District Attorney
(831) 755-5246**

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Jose Castaneda, a former Salinas City Councilman was sentenced to eight years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) for the crimes of kidnapping, domestic violence and stalking.

On September 5, 2015, at 11 p.m., Jane Doe, a former dating partner of Castaneda's, refused to talk to him. Castaneda unexpectedly approached her outside of her Salinas home, grabbed her forearms and dragged her down the driveway and pushed her into a van which he drove approximately a half-mile away from her home. They remained at that location for two to three hours as Castaneda continuously hit the victim on her head, arms and legs, and subjected her to accusatory and degrading questioning. He then demanded the victim's phone and passwords to her social media accounts. When the victim refused, he pulled her into the back seat and continued to berate and strike her. When the victim's phone battery died, Castaneda released the victim and she walked the half-mile to her home barefoot.

The victim did not report to police until Castaneda returned to her home, again close to midnight on September 7, 2015 and again demanded to talk to her while he banged on her car windows, her front door and her brother's bedroom window.

On May 24, 2017, after two days of deliberations, a jury of seven women and five men found former Salinas City Councilman guilty of kidnapping, domestic violence and stalking.

The victim, today in court, detailed how Castaneda's criminal conduct impacted her daily life for the last two years and will continue to do so in the future. She related that many people applaud Castaneda for his public persona but those persons do not know the other side to Jose Castaneda, the one that is demanding, controlling and violent. She stated through the pendency of this case, Castaneda cast himself in the media and in court as the victim. But she is the victim that endured his violent behavior in September 2015 and his manipulation of the court's time for the last two years. The victim, accompanied by her son, brother, aunt, niece and many friends, mentioned she hopes that other victims of domestic violence will come forward and report violence to family, friends and law enforcement.

Castaneda made a public apology to both prior girlfriends who testified in the jury trial about "what went on between us" and related to the court that he has had time to dwell on his mistakes. After several minutes of reading his statement, he asked the court for a grant of probation so he could continue his work in the community and be the backbone for his family.

In rendering sentence, Judge Carrie Panetta stated Castaneda's apology sounded like a political statement for his supporters. She described his in-court statement as self-serving and did not appear to illustrate any genuine remorse for his crimes. She noted that he not once indicated that he committed any crime but only apologized for "the things that went on between he and the victims".

Judge Panetta determined Castaneda was not eligible for a grant of probation. She further stated that Castaneda's crimes displayed planning, a high degree of cruelty and callousness, and his crimes were of increasing seriousness which posed a danger to society. Judge Panetta imposed the upper term of eight years for the crime of kidnapping, and concurrent sentences for the domestic violence and stalking charges. She also granted a criminal protective order prohibiting contact with the victim and her son for a period of ten years.

The case was investigated by Salinas Police Department and District Attorney Investigator Martin Sanchez.